

which he collected one. Its stomach contents were: 5 males or drones of the domestic bee, 1 elytron of *Paropsis*, 1 head of a Hylaeid bee, and mashed insect material. The area where the Dusky Wood-Swallow was collected was a wandoo flat, with a little marri, both species flowering, as well as some scrub. Apparently there was a marriage flight of the *Promyrmecia* at the time. The other Hymenoptera and Coleoptera were hawked by the Wood-Swallows in the vicinity of the flowering wandoo and marri. In the second case the Black-faced Wood-Swallow apparently hawked in a different area where drones of the domestic bee were plentiful.

—ATHOL M. DOUGLAS, W.A. Museum.

Diving of Musk Duck, *Biziura lobata*.—On October 4, 1953, a Gould League party visited the Victoria Reservoir, near Maddington. As usual, waterfowl were scarce and only one duck, a male Musk Duck, was seen. This was diving in deep water, so a group undertook to time a number of successive dives.

Times recorded were as follows:

Dive	Duration in seconds.	Time on surface in seconds.
1	60	Not recorded
2	65	" "
3	62	" "
4	58	20
5	45	Not recorded
6	50	18
7	55	20
8	60	Not recorded
9	57	18
10	62	17
11	60	Not recorded
12	57	18
13	62	20
14	50	27
15	55	20
16	57	16
17	50	17
18	42	24
19	55	Observations concluded.

It will be observed that the duration of the dives was remarkably consistent, ranging from 42 seconds to 65 seconds and averaging 55.9 seconds. Surface times were much shorter ranging from 16 seconds to 24 seconds and averaging 19.6 seconds.

Mr. D. Reid, who has seen the Reservoir empty, estimated the depth of water at the point where the bird was diving — about 100 yards behind the centre of the retaining wall — to be about 40 feet.

The bird was watched by Mr. D. Reid through binoculars while Mr. E. Garrett, using a watch with sweep second hand, recorded the duration of the dives and the writer recorded the observations and, where possible, obtained surface times.

The times given above are much greater than those recorded in Serenty and Whittell's *Birds of Western Australia* — of a

bird diving in the waters of Lake Coo loongup which averaged 11 to 12 seconds under water and 5 to 6 seconds on the surface. The Lake Coo loongup records were made on a bird "in the shallows close inshore" (vide the observer's field notes). The depth of the water was not estimated but it probably would not have exceeded six feet.

—ERIC H. SEDGWICK, Woorloo.

Birds Recently Established in the Central Wheatbelt.—During the early part of 1954 I spent two months in the Dangin district. This area lies in the Central Wheatbelt, 100 miles east of Perth, and midway between Brookton and Kellerberrin. Amongst the birds observed there, several species were of particular interest in that they were only recently established in the area.

The Kookaburra (*Dacelo gigas*) was a conspicuous, though perhaps not abundant, species. I observed it at several points up to seven miles west of Dangin. A group of eight birds were established near my camp-site; at another point I once recorded two individuals; and at a third point a chorus of calls indicated the presence of another small group of Kookaburras. One was also noted at Brookton on January 1, 1954. Serventy and Whittell, in *Birds of W.A.*, regard the species as being a "casual visitor east of Northam to Kellerberrin". At Dangin, however, the Kookaburra has become at least temporarily resident. Local opinion indicates that they have only recently arrived in the district. One farmer stated that he had never seen the bird in the district prior to December 1953, and another that he first observed them early in 1953, since when their numbers have increased considerably.

Increases in the numbers of Manded Geese (*Chenonetta jubata*) have recently been noticed in numerous areas in the South-West. A farmer at Jacob's Well (8 miles west of Dangin) informed me that a pair of the geese arrived on his property in 1952. In 1953 they were joined by about a dozen more, and have since increased till the flock totalled about 60 individuals. Although this flock was the only one I encountered, various duck shooters informed me that they had observed similar increases elsewhere in the district, and especially at Lake Mears, to the south of Dangin, where the species is now reputed to be exceedingly abundant.

While visiting the district in 1951, I recorded the appearance of the Senegal Turtle-dove (*Streptopelia senegalensis*) at Dangin townsite (*W.A. Naturalist*, vol. 2, p. 195.) My recent visit revealed that the colony has declined; there are now none resident on the townsite and I only observed two individuals during the whole of my period of observation. These were on the outskirts of the town, near some abandoned buildings. Four miles to the east of Dangin, however, in the large town of Quairading, the species was both common and conspicuous, and birds are reported to have occurred there for at least five years.

—L. E. SEDGWICK. St. George's College, Crawley.